St. Louis Region

Practicum on Partnership-Based Violence Reduction

December 4-8, 2023

About the VRC

- **The Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction** ("the VRC") offers solutions to community gun violence by combining rigorous research with practical know-how
  - The VRC reviews research, summarizes it, and then makes it available in accessible, easy-to-use formats
  - Also provides practical instruction to cities on how to choose the right combination of anti-violence strategies for their jurisdiction
- Clear mission: "to save lives by stopping violence, using science"
- Everything we do, we do <u>for</u> <u>free</u>

VRC Principles

The VRC's work is guided by three principles:

- **Scientific Rigor.** Leveraging academic expertise, we emphasize strategies supported by strong evidence of effectiveness
- **Real-World Relevance.** Leveraging practitioner experience, we stress the importance of sound implementation in the real world
- **Independence.** The VRC is nonpartisan, with no financial or other interests in the strategies it recommends

VRC Staff

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VRC previous work

- Established in November 2022
- Held successful practica in Knoxville (December 2022) and Boston (April 2023), adding more cities in 2024
- Abt has developed statewide and nationwide anti-violence initiatives, wrote a book on violence, and worked with hundreds of government officials at local, state, and federal levels
- Brunson has published more than fifty articles, book chapters, and essays on criminal justice policies and violence reduction practices

About the Practicum on Partnership-Based Violence Reduction

- What is a practicum? “A course of study that involves the supervised practical application of theory” (Merriam-Webster, 2022)
- Why partnership-based? Without the active participation of key partners, success not possible
- Why violence reduction? Stopping violence can save lives, promote justice, and unlock the potential of a city and surrounding areas – especially so for most impacted residents and communities

How the Practicum Works

1. Practicum participants learn about key violence reduction strategies from leading experts in academia and practice
   - Participants ask questions, offer comments, discuss merits of each strategy, debate whether appropriate for region

How the Practicum Works

2. Participants put together practical “plan to plan” for action based on lessons learned, own insights and experiences
3. After practicum, local leaders consult with more stakeholders to further develop plan and start implementation

VRC helps every step of the way!

How the Practicum Helps

- Exposure to nationally-recognized researchers and practitioners
- Learn about science of violence reduction, with strong emphasis on real-world application
- Interactive; lots of opportunities for feedback and discussion
- Structured but flexible planning process
  - Structured: guided process, don't need to start from scratch
  - Flexible: meets region "where it's at," sensitive to right "fit"
- Ongoing remote assistance after practicum
  - Plan drafting, regular implementation meetings, personalized referrals to top technical assistance and training providers

Monday, December 4th

Open sessions

9-9:30am Welcome and Overview

9:30-10am The Regional Approach

10-11am Violence in the St. Louis Region

11-11:45am First Principles for Violence Reduction

11:45-12:15pm Q & A

Working sessions

1-2:15pm Focused deterrence/Group Violence Interventions

2:30-3:45pm Street Outreach Interventions

Tuesday, December 5th

Working Sessions

9-10:15am Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery featuring Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

10:15-11:30am Place- and Problem-Based Policing

11:30-12:45pm Environmental Crime Prevention

1:30-2:45pm Funding Anti-Violence Initiatives

2:45-4pm Researcher/Practitioner Partnerships

Wednesday, December 6th

Working Sessions

9-10am Communicating about Anti-Violence Initiatives

10-11:15am Fatal and Non-Fatal Shooting Investigations

11:15-12:30pm Planning Session – Looking Backward

1:15-4pm Planning Session – Moving Forward

Thursday, December 7th

Working Sessions

9:30-10:30am Managing Multi-Strategy Anti-Violence Efforts

10:30-3:30pm Planning Sessions

Friday, December 8th

Open Session

9-10am Public Report-Out

Working session guidelines

- **Attend every session.** Promotes group learning and ensures exposure to all the information provided.
- **Stay engaged.** Ask lots of questions. Offer comments. Disagreements and debates welcome when done in a friendly way.
- **Leave the comfort zone.** Be open to new ideas. Introduce yourself to new people. Challenge yourself to think differently.
- **Stay focused on the mission.** This is about saving lives in the St. Louis region. Put everything else aside.

Remember: reducing violence is a team sport!

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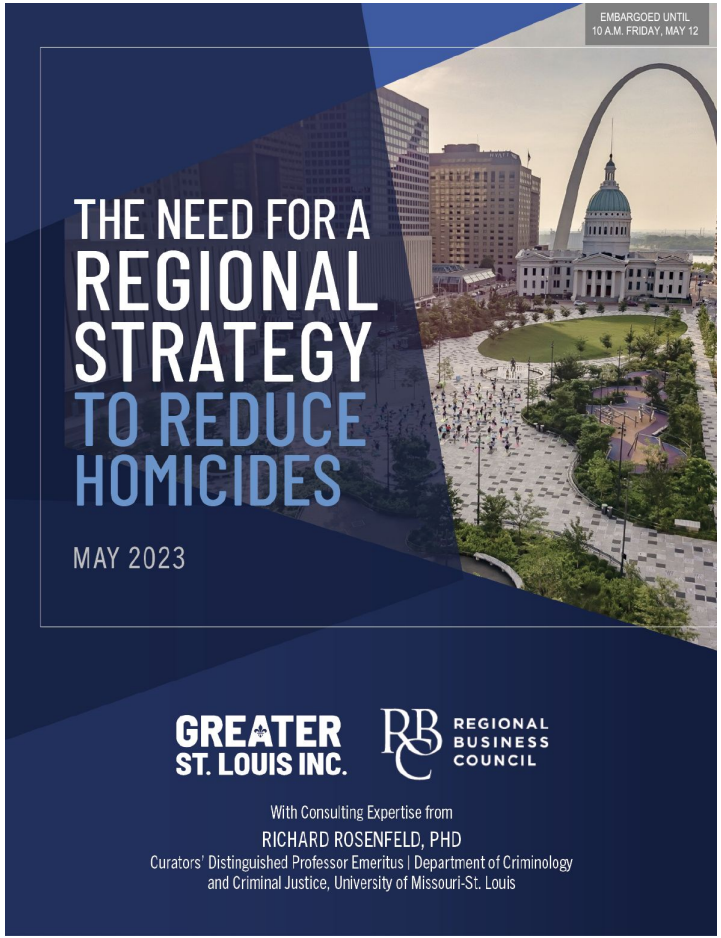
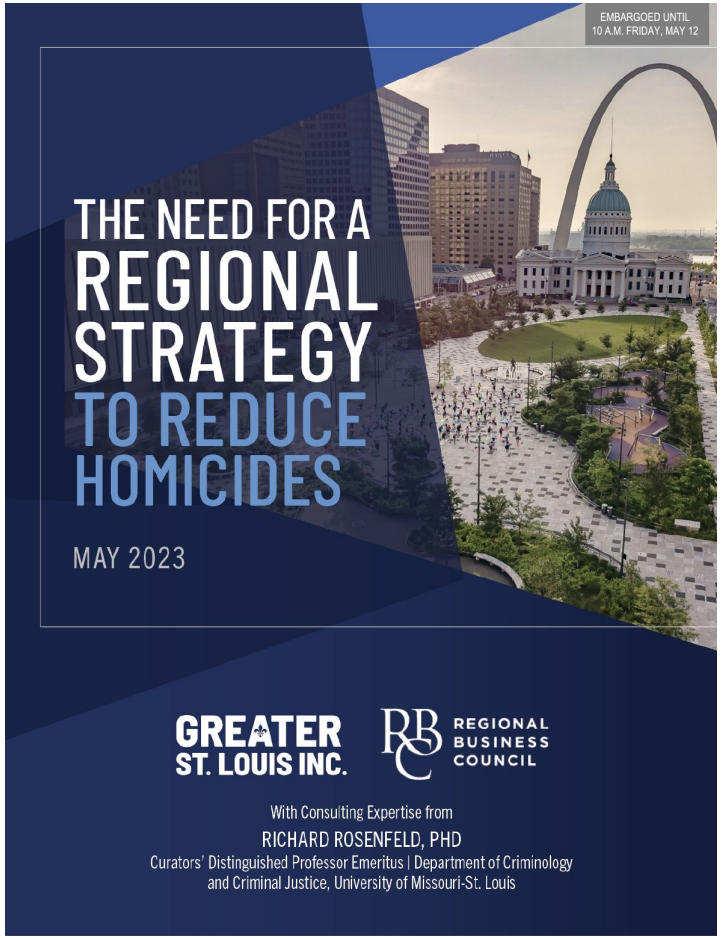
A Regional Strategy for Violence Reduction

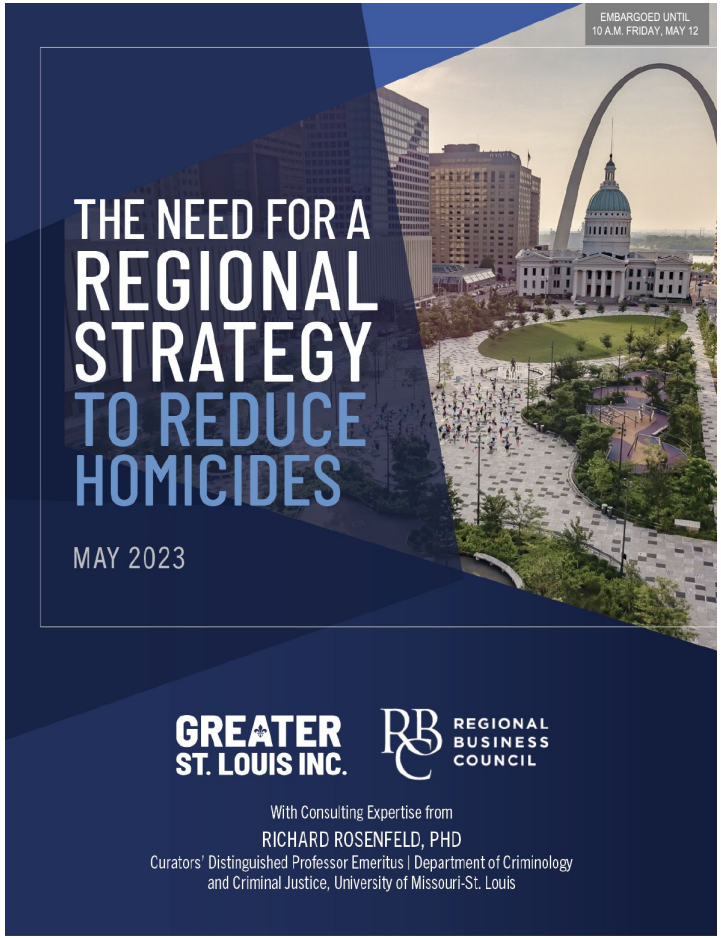
“St. Louis faces a homicide crisis. The St. Louis, MO-IL Metropolitan Statistical Area’s (MSA) homicide rate is among the highest in the U.S., over double the U.S. metro average in 2020… homicide remains, by far, the number one crime problem our region faces.”



“The STL 2030 Jobs Plan acknowledges that the St. Louis, MO-IL metro area (MSA) has globally significant assets and strengths yet has struggled economically… members of GSL’s Policy Advisory Board have determined that crime and public safety are a leading barrier to the implementation and success of the STL 2030 Jobs Plan. The RBC agrees with this Assessment.”



“Regional problems require regional solutions. Homicides are a regional problem.”



- Over 90% of homicides in St. Louis region take place in City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and St. Clair County
- Based on this, NNSC/EWGCOG/VRC recently completed analysis of 2022-2023 homicide data in these jurisdictions

National Network For Safe Communities at JOHN JAY COLLEGE

EAST-WEST GATEWAY Council of Governments

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- Of 135 homicides in City of St. Louis between September 2022–June 2023, **30%** involved at least one victim or suspect from outside the city
- Of 63 homicides in St. Louis County from January 2022-June 2023, **17%** involved at least one victim or suspect from outside the county
- Of 14 homicides in St. Clair County from January 2022-June 2023,, **25%** of known victims and suspects were from outside the county

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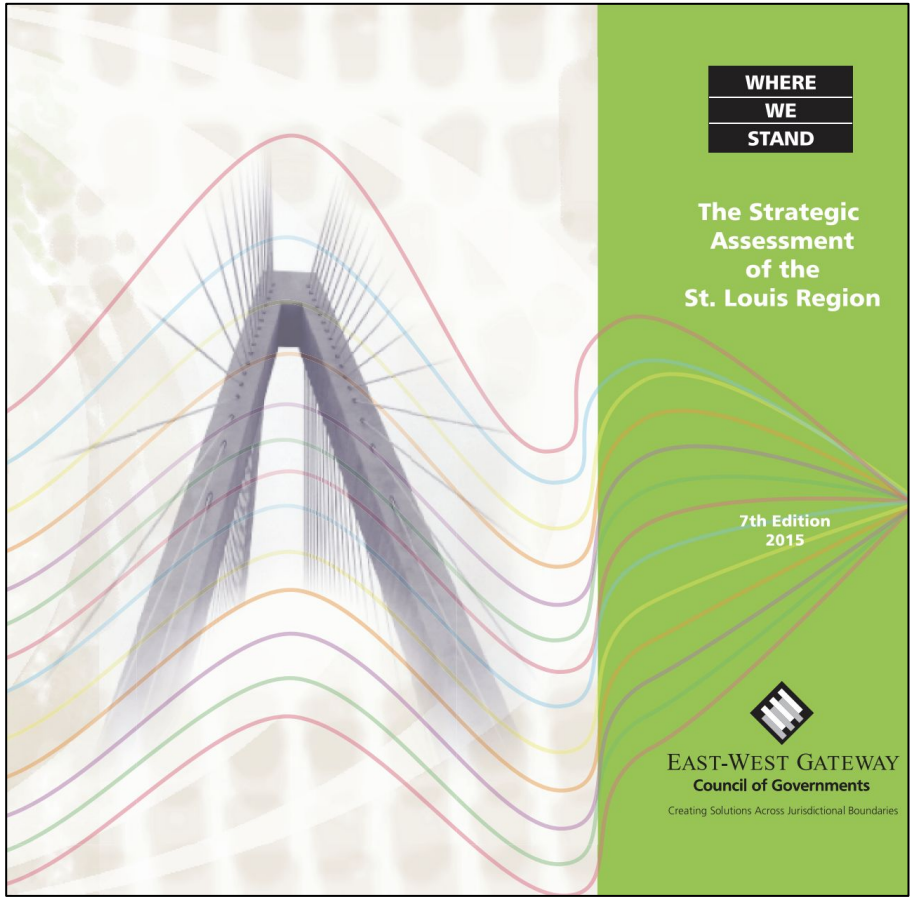
“Compared to peer regions, St. Louis has the 5th highest number of local governments with 1,034 general and special purpose governments… St. Louis ranks 3rd among peer regions with 37 units of local government per 100,000 people.”



The need for a regional strategy is clear, despite challenges – where to begin?

- The good news: progress already made – key leaders across region have publicly expressed willingness to come together, e.g. Regional Crime Summit in May, Practicum today
- Drawing from Kania and Kramer's influential collective impact model, a regional strategy requires 5 elements: common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, regular communication, and "backbone" group

A regional strategy – getting started

- Common agenda: develop shared understandings of both problem and potential solutions
- Shared measurement: identify key outcomes and agreeing this information will be tracked, measured, and shared
- Mutually reinforcing activities: stakeholders don't need to move in lock-step with one another, but work should be consistent with common agenda
- Regular communication: necessary to coordinate ongoing efforts of stakeholders

A regional strategy – getting started

- Each element connects to next: common agenda quantified by shared measurement which guides mutually reinforcing activities which is sustained by regular communication
- Lastly, regional strategy will also need dedicated support
  - "Backbone" groups can help by convening meetings, handling technology and communications, doing logistical and administrative work, etc.
- This week's practicum designed to jumpstart thinking and effort on all five elements of this strategy and push the work forward

A regional strategy – initial thoughts to start discussion

- Everyone in region takes <u>some</u> responsibility for violence, but not everyone takes the <u>same amount</u> of responsibility
- Violence across region is the concern, but focus should remain on people and places at highest risk
- Funding is important, but can't address funding until strategy is decided
- First concrete "asks" will be for stakeholder time and energy, not dollars

Let’s discuss!

Homicide Analysis – St. Louis Region

Practicum on Partnership-Based Violence Reduction

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Thank you:

East-West Gateway Council of Governments

National Network of Safe Communities

University of Missouri – St. Louis

Presentation Overview

- Homicides and other serious violent crimes present regional challenge, but more than 90% of recent homicides occurred in City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County
- This analysis focuses on homicide data from these three counties
- Analysis has three parts:
  - Overview – compares data across jurisdictions and also over time
  - Place-based – analyzes areas where recent (2022-23) homicides occurred
  - People-based – analyzes characteristics of people and groups involved in recent (2022-23) homicides

Overview

In St. Louis Region, violent crime is relatively high, but homicide is the more significant issue

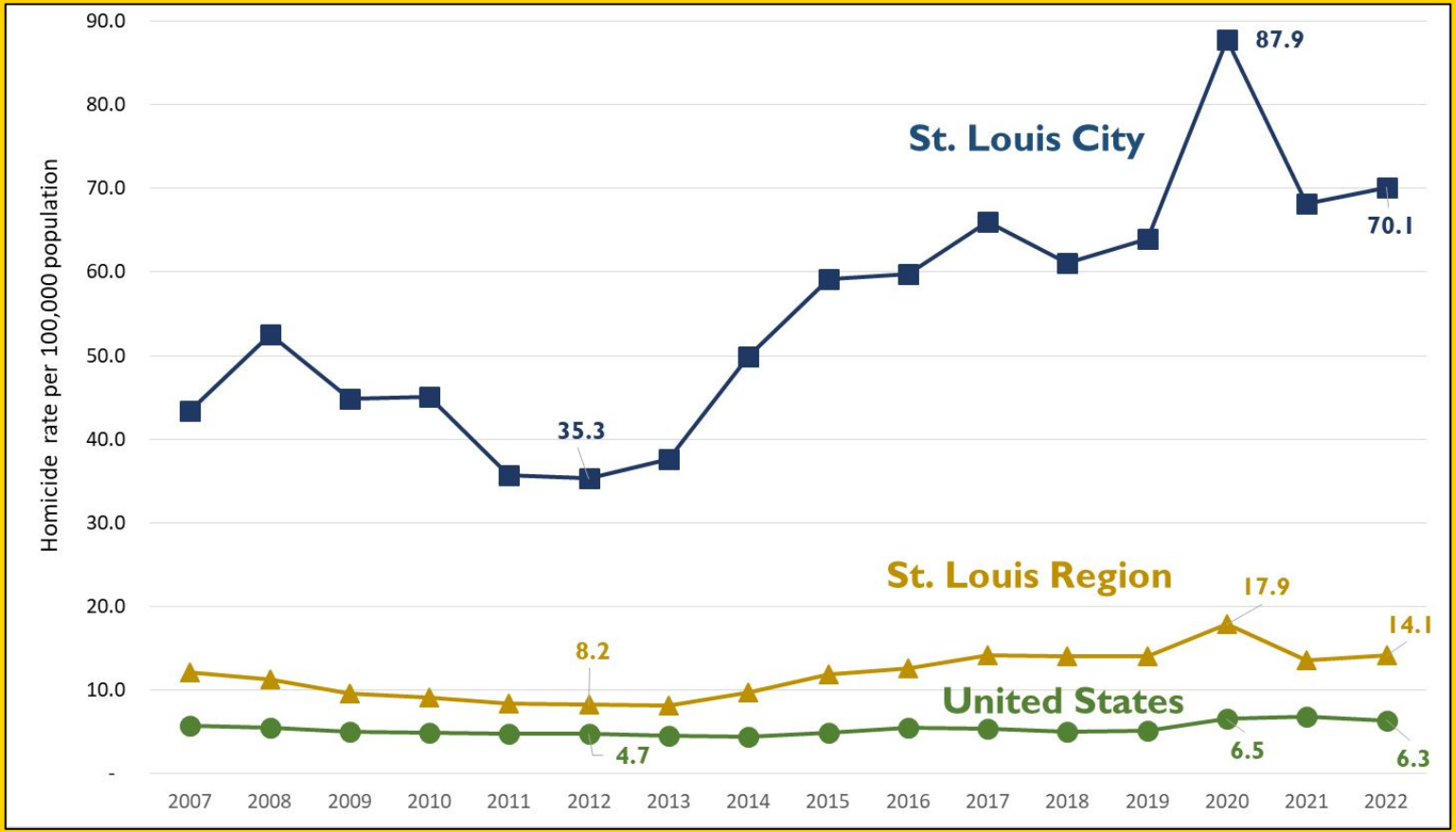
Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 in 22 Metro Statistical Areas

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Rate	Most Recent Year Reported[xxx]
Memphis	1,359	2020
Baltimore	699	2019
Milwaukee	678	2020
Indianapolis	642	2018
Houston	632	2020
Springfield, MO	632	2020
New Orleans	624	2020
Nashville	616	2020
Detroit	570	2020
Jacksonville	500	2020
St. Louis (#11)	**497**	**2020**
Los Angeles	473	2020
Oklahoma City	471	2020
Phoenix	464	2020
San Francisco	440	2020
Charlotte	427	2018
Miami	417	2020
Philadelphia	409	2018
Dallas	351	2018
Seattle	340	2020
Washington	245	2020
Cincinnati	236	2020

Homicide Rate per 100,000 in 22 Metro Statistical Areas

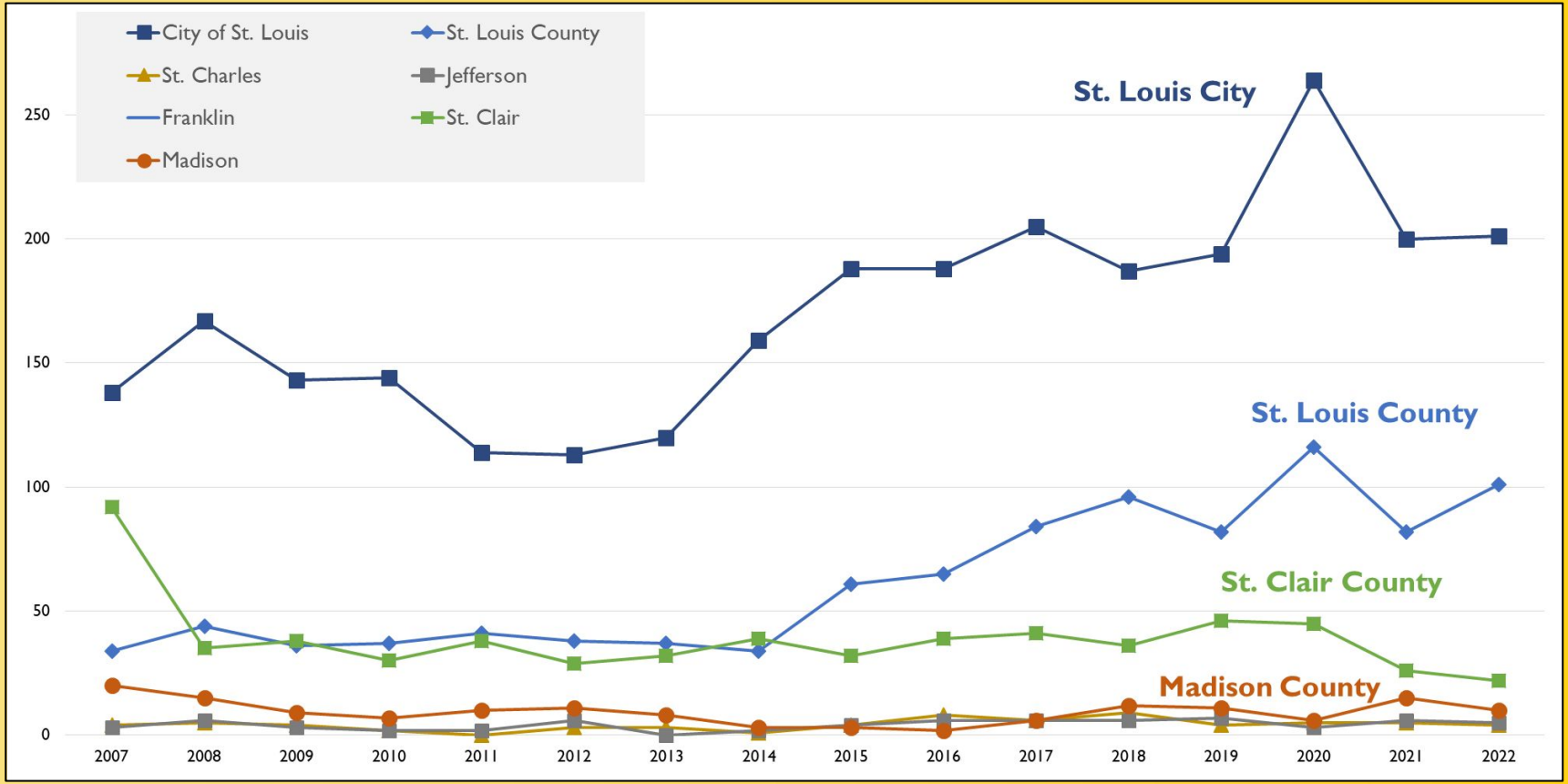
Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Rate	Most Recent Year Reported[xxvi]
Memphis	24.2	2020
New Orleans	21.7	2020
Baltimore	15.5	2019
St. Louis (#4)	**14.3**	**2020**
Milwaukee	13.1	2020
Detroit	10.5	2019
Jacksonville	9.9	2020
Indianapolis	9.3	2018
Houston	9.2	2020
Philadelphia	8.9	2020
Oklahoma City	7.8	2020
Nashville	7.7	2020
Miami	7.5	2020
Phoenix	6.2	2020
Cincinnati	5.7	2020
Los Angeles	5.6	2020
Springfield, MO	5.5	2020
San Francisco	5.3	2020
Charlotte	5.2	2018
Washington	5.0	2020
Seattle	4.5	2018
Dallas	4.4	2018

Homicide Rate per 100,000 Population, 2007 to 2022



Sources: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Illinois State Police and St. Louis Post-Dispatch Homicide Tracker

Number of Homicides by County, 2007 to 2022



Sources: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Illinois State Police and St. Louis Post-Dispatch Homicide Tracker

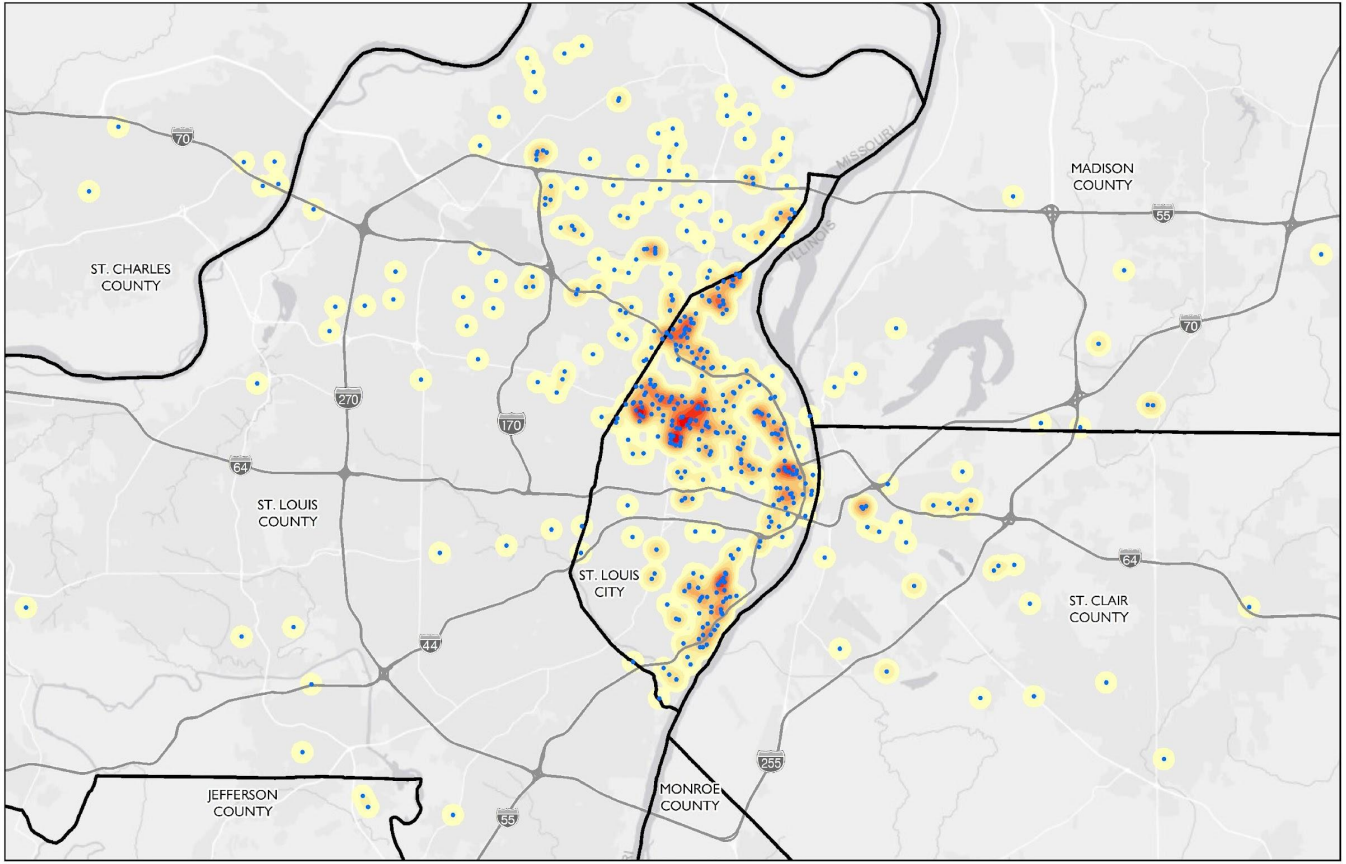
Key Takeaways

- Homicide is a significant issue in the region, particularly in St. Louis City
- Homicide has declined since its peak in 2020 but is still elevated – it can go lower

Place-Based Analysis

Concentration of Homicides, St. Louis Region

January 2022 to June 2023



St. Louis Post-Dispatch Homicide Tracker

Jan 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Density Per Square Mile

>1 — 31.25

Other Map Data

- Homicide Location
- Interstate Highway
- County Boundary

This map's crime density data was generated using ArcMap's Kernel Density tool. The analysis was conducted with a cell size of 30 meters and a search radius of half a mile to calculate the density of crime incidents in each area in square miles.

0 — 5 Miles

Sources: St. Louis Post-Dispatch; East-West Gateway Council of Governments

East-West Gateway Council of Governments

November 2023

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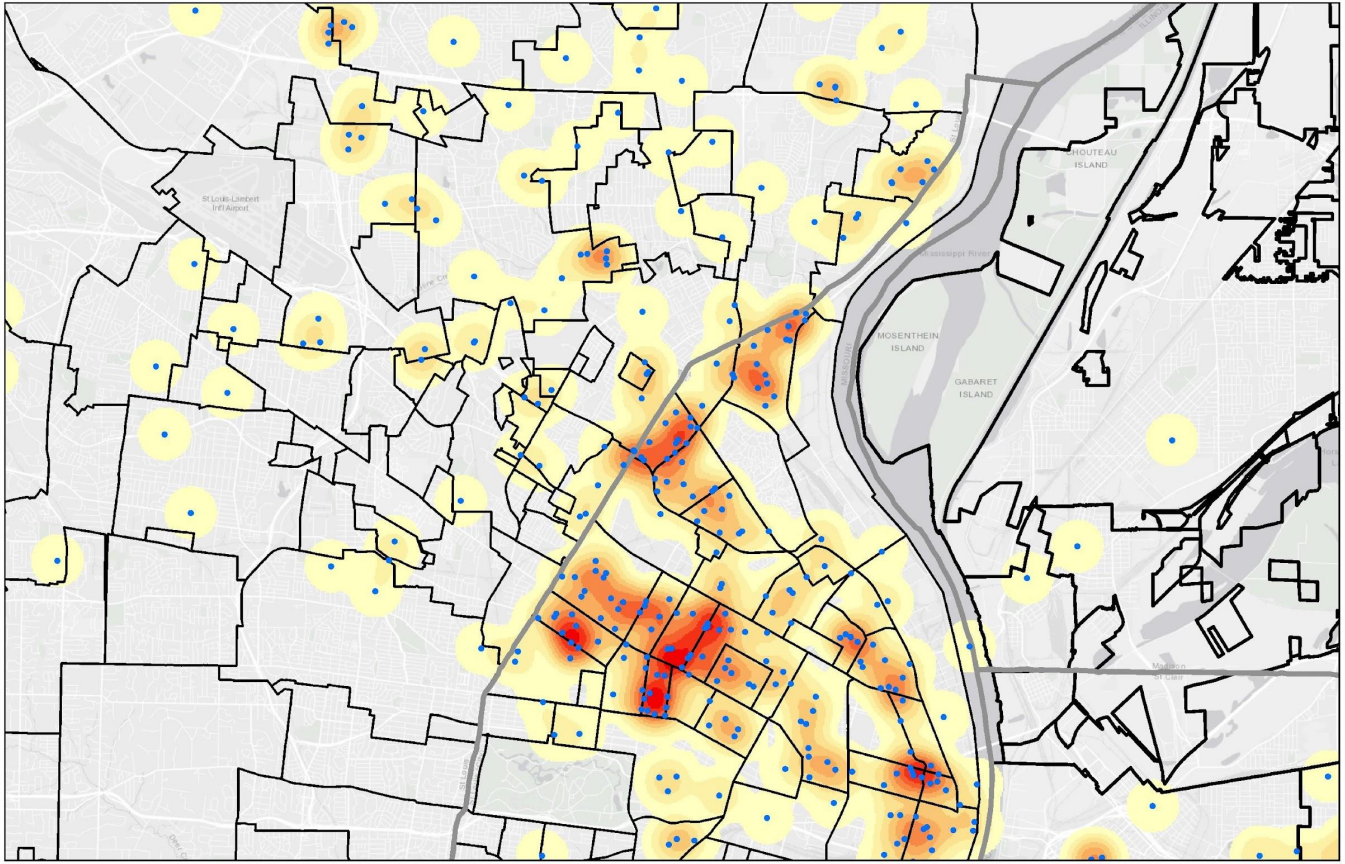
Concentration of Homicides, North St. Louis County and City

January 2022 to June 2023



Density Per Square Mile

>1 — 31.25

Other Map Data

- Homicide Location
- Community Boundaries*
- County Boundary

0 — 1 Miles

St Louis Post-Dispatch Homicide Tracker

Jan 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

This map's crime density data was generated using ArcMap's Kernel Density tool. The analysis was conducted with a cell size of 30 meters and a search radius of half a mile to calculate the density of crime incidents in each area in square miles.

*Community Boundaries includes incorporated places, census designated places, and City of St. Louis neighborhoods.

Sources: St. Louis Post-Dispatch; East-West Gateway Council of Governments

East-West Gateway Council of Governments

November 2023

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Key Takeaways

- Homicide is concentrated in small geographic areas
- Many areas of concentration are in St. Louis City and surrounding areas – homicide is regional issue
- Poverty explains some, but not all, of the differences across neighborhoods in serious violence
- There is a need for timely regional data on violent crime.
- Crime rates have limitations and are only one metric of safe neighborhoods

People-Based Analysis

Analysis Overview

- NNSC Problem Analysis is set of action research exercises with knowledgeable frontline practitioners that produce a picture of local violence dynamics
- Throughout process, new facts on the ground are created and provide shared understanding of what violence looks like in a jurisdiction
- These exercises identify individuals and groups who are at highest risk of shooting or being shot
- This problem analysis includes violent incident review, audit of violent groups, and review of criminal histories

Scope of Analysis

- NNSC team and frontline personnel from St. Louis Police Department, East St. Louis Police Department, and St. Louis County Police Department reviewed total of 212 homicide incidents
  - 135 homicide incidents from St. Louis City from September 2022-June 2023
  - 63 homicide incidents from St. Louis County from January 2022-June 2023
  - 14 homicide incidents from East St. Louis from January 2022-June 2023
- 90% of incidents involved firearm
- Total of 224 victims and 201 suspects in reviewed incidents

Victim and Suspect overview

Sex	Victims (n=213)	Suspects (n=180)	Victim & Suspects (n=393)	Across Region
Male	80%	86%	83%	48%
Female	20%	14%	17%	52%
Race				
Black	86%	92%	89%	35%
Hispanic/Latino	1%	0%	0%	4%
White	12%	8%	11%	57%
Other	1%	0%	0%	4%

*St. Louis City and County only

Victim and Suspect Ages

Age	Victims (n=223)	Suspects (n=193)	Victims & Suspects (n=416)
17 & Under	14%	11%	13%
18 to 24	24%	30%	27%
25 to 34	27%	30%	28%
35 to 44	17%	14%	15%
45 to 54	8%	9%	8%
55 & Older	10%	6%	8%
Average Age	**31**	**31**	**31**

St. Louis County and City Victim and Suspect: Criminal Justice (CJ) System

	Victims (n=145)	Suspects (n=118)	Victims & Suspects (n=263)
Known to the CJ system	71%	84%	78%
Of those known to the CJ System			
Prior incarceration	33%	28%	31%
Convicted of felony	31%	31%	31%
Prior probation/parole	43%	41%	42%
Average number of prior cases	9.5	8.5	9.0
Average number of prior felony cases	5.5	7.1	6.3

St. Louis City and County Victim and Suspect: Prior Offense Detail

	Victims (n=145)	Suspects (n=118)	Victims & Suspects (n=263)
Of those with prior arrests			
Violent offenses	4.0	2.6	3.3
Weapon offenses	1.6	1.9	1.7
Drug offenses	3.4	2.9	3.1
Property offenses	4.2	3.2	3.7
Disorder offenses	1.4	0.9	1.2
Total average offenses	**14.6**	**11.5**	**13.0**

Incident Characteristics

Incident Characteristics	N	All Incidents (n=212)	Excluding Unknown (n=160)
Personal dispute	48	23%	30%
Intimate partner violence	35	17%	22%
Robbery	28	13%	17%
Drug-related dispute	28	13%	17%
Group-related dispute	12	6%	8%
Other	9	4%	6%
Unknown	52	25%	

Juvenile Involvement

- Juveniles involved in:
  - 14% of homicides in St. Louis City
  - 23% of homicides in St. Louis County
  - 21% of homicides in East St. Louis

- National average is 17% in 13 other cities where we performed analysis

- Important: average age of victims and suspects is 31; over 70% of homicides involving juveniles also involved an adult

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- IPV and IPV-related spillover homicides accounted for:
  - 10% of homicides in St. Louis City
  - 19% of homicides in St. Louis County
  - 7% of homicides in East St. Louis

- On average, IPV and IPV-related spillover accounts for 13% of homicides in cities (17) where we performed analysis

- While significant, over 80% of homicides in the three jurisdictions are not related to IPV or IPV-related spillover

External Connections

- Of 135 homicides in City of St. Louis between September 2022–June 2023, **30%** involved at least one victim or suspect from outside the city. Of these homicides:
  - 32 (78%) involved victim or suspect form St. Louis County
  - 7 (17%) involved victim or suspect from Illinois
  - 2 (5%) involved victim or suspect from outside of Missouri/Illinois
  - None involved victim or suspect from St. Charles County, Monroe County, Franklin County, Jefferson County
- Of 63 homicides in St. Louis County from January 2022-June 2023, **17%** involved at least one victim or suspect from outside the county
- Of 14 homicides in St. Clair County from January 2022-June 2023,, **25%** of known victims and suspects were from outside the county

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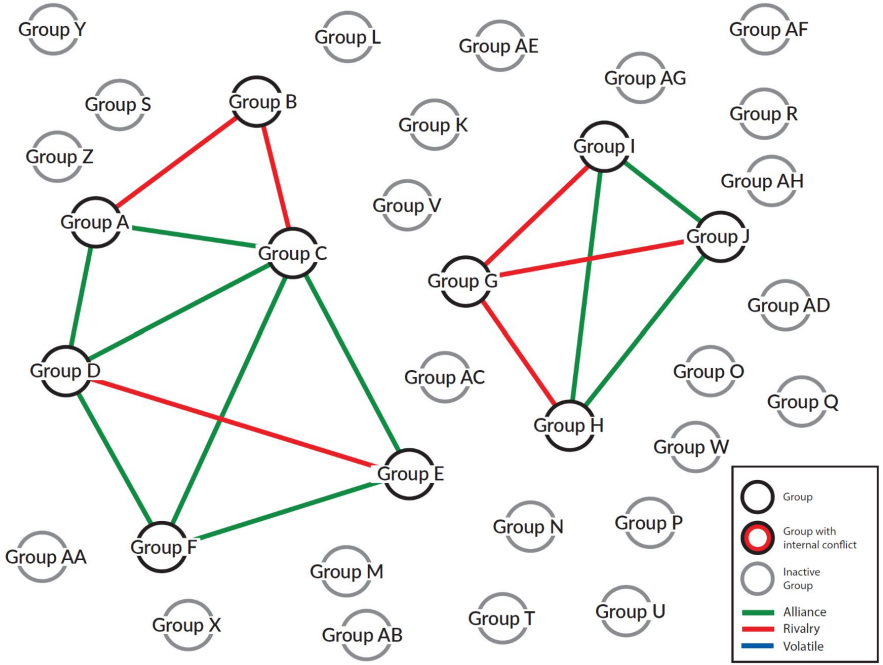
Group Involvement

- Groups do not need to fit statutory definition of “gang” or have specific name or identifying symbol to be considered group
- All gangs are groups, but not all groups are gangs; this review considers all groups and not just gangs
- Confirmed group member-involved incidents include those where at least one victim is member of a group, at least one suspect is member of a group, or both victim and suspect are members of group
- There are also instances when context of incident suggests group involvement, but cannot be confirmed (“Likely” GMI)

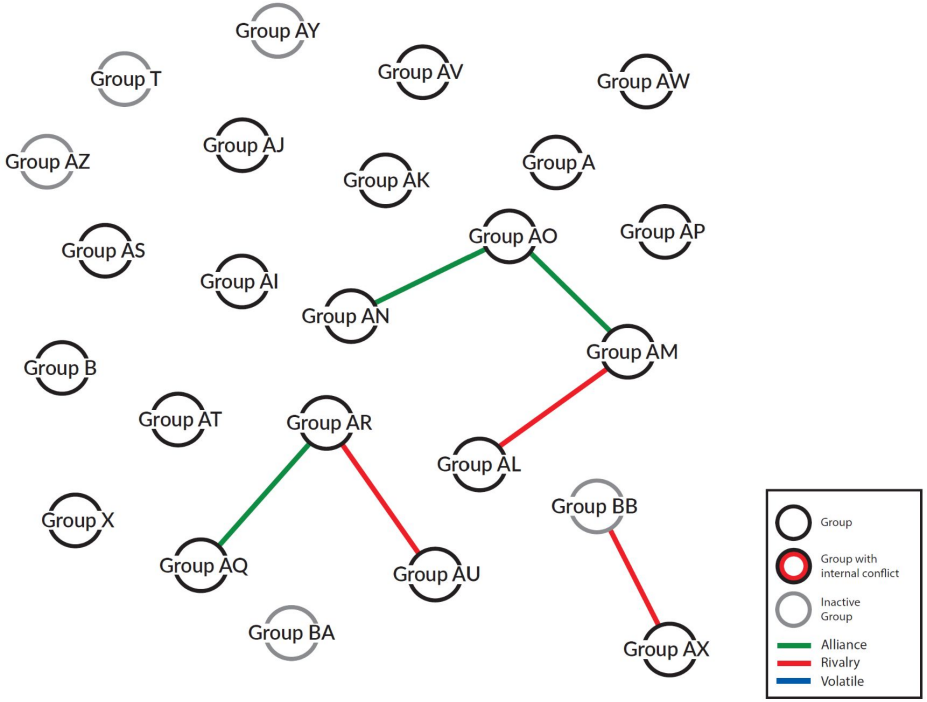
Group Involvement

- During group audit and incident review, law enforcement identified at least 36 active groups across three jurisdictions
- Rivalries between groups included those between more established groups and those between different housing complexes
- Groups are involved in wide array of activities including drug dealing and car theft

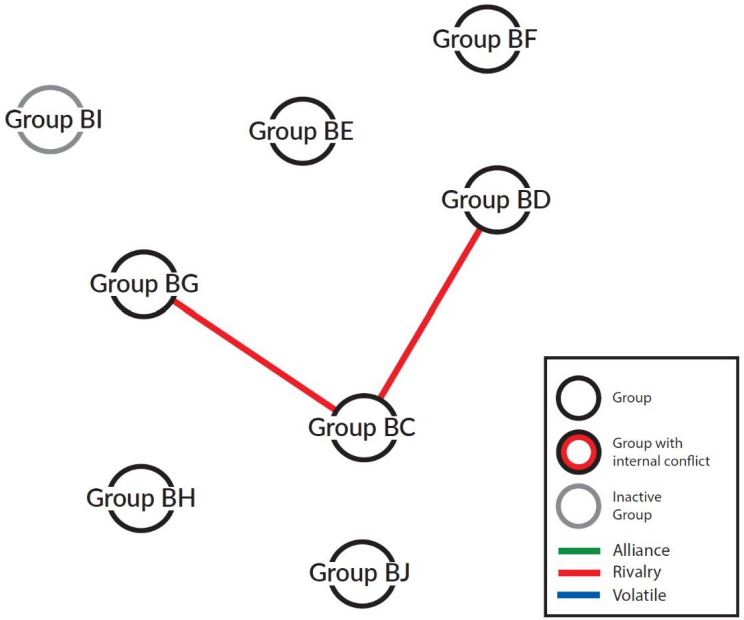
Groups in St. Louis City



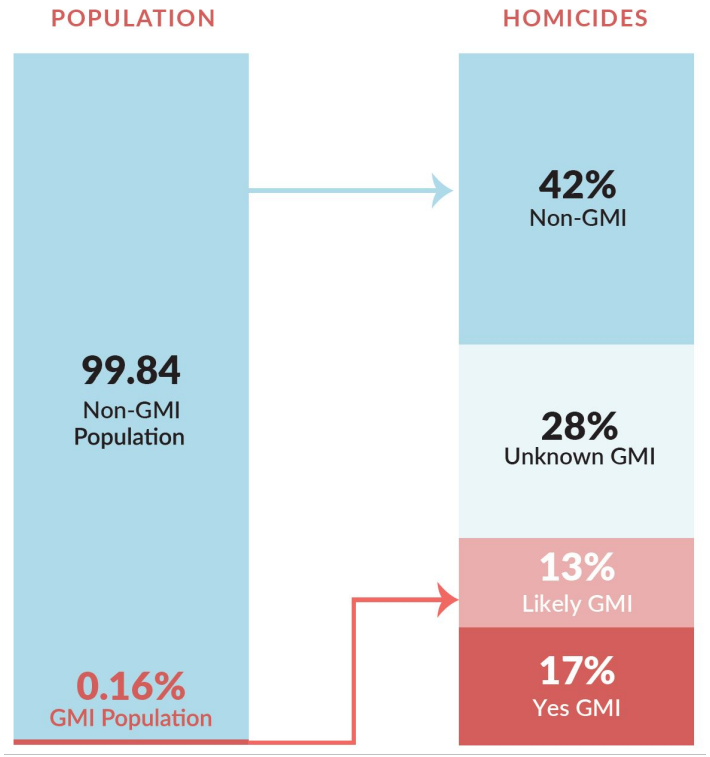
Groups in St. Louis County



Groups in East St. Louis

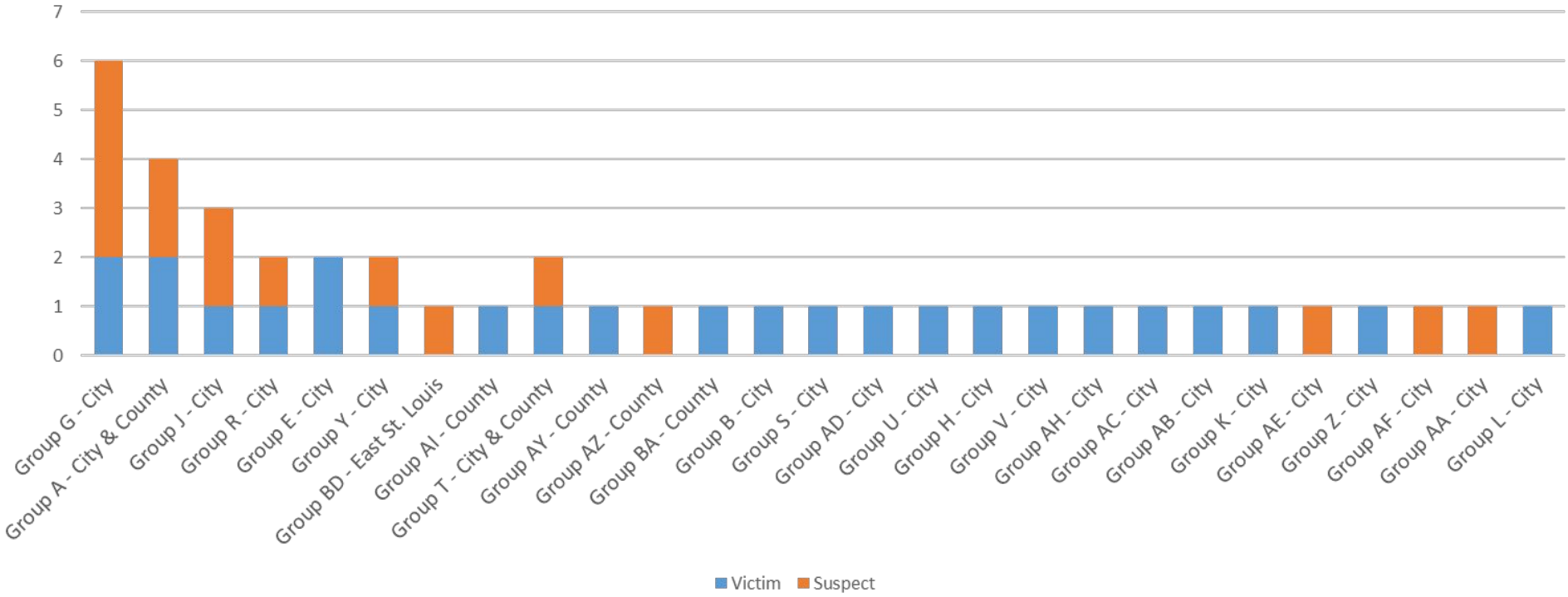


Violence Concentration Across Jurisdictions



Groups that represent 0.16% of the overall population in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and East St. Louis are involved in at least 17% of recent homicides and likely involved in an additional 13% of recent homicides.

Group Homicides by Count



Key Takeaways

- Serious violence clustered among small group of victims and suspects
- Victims and suspects have nearly identical characteristics (sex, race, age) and similar criminal histories
- Victims and suspects have average age of 31 – older than expected
- Victims and suspects have significant prior contact with criminal justice system – 6.5 previous felony cases, 13 prior arrests

Key Takeaways

- Community violence (violence taking place in community settings) responsible for 72% of total homicides (personal disputes, robbery, drug-related disputes, group-related disputes), often focused on disputes
- Groups represent very small segment of population but are likely involved in at least 30% of recent homicides

Questions?

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First Principles for Violence Reduction

What is community violence?

- According to the WHO, community violence is “violence between individuals who are unrelated, and who may or may not know each other, generally taking place outside the home”
- 4 kinds of gun violence in the U.S.
  - Gun suicides: account for more than half of gun deaths
  - Community gun violence: accounts for vast majority of homicides
  - Domestic gun violence: about a quarter of homicides
  - Mass shootings: approximately 2% of homicides
- In St. Louis and across nation, community gun violence (gun violence in community settings) is the #1 driver of homicides

Why focus on community gun violence?

- First and foremost, clear moral obligation to keep all citizens safe
- Community gun violence impacts every aspect of urban life: health, education, housing, jobs, economic development
- Every homicide costs $10-19 million in criminal justice, medical, other costs (McCollister et al., 2010; Cohen et al., 2004; DeLisi et al., 2010)
- Most victims survive, resulting in considerable additional costs
- In 2022, the 360 homicides in St. Louis MSA cost region between $3.6-6.9 billion
- GSL Policy Advisory Board: “Crime and public safety are a leading barrier to the success of the STL 2030 Jobs Plan”

Why focus on community violence?

- Reducing violence can save lives and unlock millions, even billions, in human and economic potential – a 10% reduction in just homicides would save St. Louis MSA an estimated $360-690 million
- Also a social justice and equity issue: impact of violence is not experienced equally, so benefits of reducing violence disproportionately helps most disadvantaged and disenfranchised

Defining the Problem and the Solution

- To move forward, must start with a common definition of the problem and solution
- Both should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Actionable, Relevant, and Time-bound

Defining the Problem and the Solution

- The Problem: “Unacceptably high rates of lethal and potentially lethal violence, committed in public spaces, as measured by the number of homicides and shootings that result in injury.” (Abt, 2019)
  - Why focus on violence? Why in public? Why lethal and potentially lethal violence? Why homicides and shootings with injury?
- The Solution: “To save lives by reducing homicides and shootings with injury by 10% each year.” (Abt, 2019)
  - Why focus on saving lives? Why 10%? Why annually?

Being evidence-informed

- "*Evidence-informed* means drawing on the best evidence and data currently available. It also means that key decisions should be determined not by politics but instead by what empirical information shows will save the most lives." (Abt, 2019)
- What does evidence mean here?
- What's the difference between being evidence-informed and evidence-based?

Being evidence-informed

- “Evidence: something which shows that something else exists or is true; a visible sign of something.” (Merriam-Webster)
- “Proof legally presented at trial which is intended to convince the judge and/or jury of alleged facts material to the case.” (Law.com)
- “Information that is generated through systematic data collection, research, or program evaluation using accepted scientific methods that are documented and replicable.” (Crimesolutions.gov)

Being evidence-informed

Benefits of using evidence in policymaking:

- Accountability. Evidence provides a means of measuring success/failure
- Objectivity. Evidence minimizes bias; provides neutral reference point for discussions
- Accuracy: Using evidence is better at explaining past events, predicting future events than other methods
- Certainty: Using evidence involves transparent rules and repeatable procedures for reaching scientific conclusions

Being evidence-informed

- Evidence-<u>based</u>
  - Assumes evidence strong, complete and permanent enough to control policy, i.e. may create false sense of certainty
  - Can discourage innovation, creativity
  - Ignores that evidence only one consideration in policymaking
- Evidence-<u>informed</u>
  - Gets benefits of being evidence-based without disadvantages
  - More nuanced understanding of role of evidence in policymaking

Being community-informed

- “Community-informed means the effort will give voice to those most impacted by community violence by listening and inviting participation throughout the policymaking and implementation process.” (Abt, 2019)
  - What does community mean here?
  - What’s the difference between being community-informed and community-based?

Being community-informed

- Community, in this context, means those impacted most by community gun violence, i.e. residents from areas where rates of violence highest, including those involved in gun violence as victims and perpetrators.
- But who represents the community? Is there one or many communities? And does the community speak with one voice?

Being community-informed

Benefits of involving community in policymaking:

- Legitimacy. If credible community leaders/members participate, effort more likely to be seen as fair and legitimate
- Sustainability. If seen as fair and legitimate, effort more likely to be sustained over time
- Effectiveness: If community leaders/members participate, will get more accurate information about local circumstances and conditions, leading to more effective strategies

Being community-informed

- Community-<u>based</u>
  - Assumes “community” can be easily defined
  - Assumes community has all necessary expertise and information
  - Wishes of community not only consideration for policymaking
- Community-<u>informed</u>
  - Gets benefits of involving community without disadvantages of community-based approach
  - More nuanced understanding of the role of community

Focus, balance, fairness

- “Given the concentrated nature of community violence, as well as the relative scarcity of resources to address the problem, we must design a *focused* response. Being focused means targeting what matters most when it comes to urban violence.” (Abt, 2019)
  - What does being focused mean?
  - Why is it important?

Focus, balance, fairness

- In U.S. cities, half of murders involve less than .06% of the city's population (Lurie et al., 2018), 4% of geography accounts for half of all crime (Weisburd, 2015)
- Looking across hundreds of evaluations, those focusing on highest risk people and places outperform those that don't
  - True for policing (Braga, 2015), gang prevention (Gravel et al., 2012; Petrosino et al., 2015), reentry (Hollin, 1999; Lipsey & Cullen, 2007); also true for public health (Limbos et al. 2007)
- Displacement a concern, but "over 30 years of research evidence… suggests that crime relocates in only a minority of instances" (Johnson et al., 2014)

Focus, balance, fairness

- "*[B]alancing* prevention and punishment works far better than either approach in isolation. We need a range of incentives that promote positive associations and activities while deterring violence—there must be both carrot and stick." (Abt, 2019)
  - What does being balanced mean?
  - Why is it important?

Focus, balance, fairness

- Across hundreds of evaluations, evidentiary support for both “soft” and “tough” approaches (Abt and Winship, 2016)
- Prevention diverts future offenders, enforcement deters or incapacitates current offenders
- No city has successfully used only one or the other – must combine sustainability of prevention with immediacy of enforcement

Focus, balance, fairness

- “The first two fundamentals of anti-violence efforts—focus and balance—are intended to preserve public safety. The third fundamental—*fairness*—is intended to build legitimacy by treating individuals and communities justly. The first two fundamentals concern what to do about community gun violence, while the last concerns how to do it.” (Abt, 2019)
- “A key means of building legitimacy starts with a concept called procedural justice or fairness, which holds that legitimacy depends largely on whether the system’s processes are believed to be fair, not just on the outcomes the system produces.” (Abt, 2019)

Focus, balance, fairness

- Community gun violence is closely connected to legitimacy: less fairness leads to more violence, e.g. Ferguson, Minneapolis
  - Procedural justice: lack of trust and confidence results in less compliance, more violence (Papachristos, Meares, & Fagan, 2012; Gau & Brunson, 2010)
  - Legal cynicism: when communities do not believe in criminal justice system, they withdraw from it (Kirk & Papachristos, 2011)
- Reforms that enhance legitimacy complement violence reduction strategies and should be done simultaneously

Focus, balance, fairness

- Procedural fairness has helped police officials rebuild trust, improve compliance, and promote collaboration (Brunson et al., 2015; Donner et al., 2015; Mazerolle et al., 2013); also worked for courts (Bornstein et al., 2016)
- What does it mean to be “procedurally fair?”
  - Respectful treatment
  - Unbiased and transparent decision-making
  - Given opportunity to be heard, i.e. ”voice”
- Not just for street encounters – should be part of policymaking process

People, places, and behaviors

- To make a strategy actionable, use strategies that focus on the people, places, and behaviors driving community gun violence
- For people-based strategies
  - Identify those most at risk, then engage
  - Once engaged, stabilize by providing safety and security
  - Once stabilized, treat unhealthy thinking, unsafe behavior, trauma
  - Once treated, offer educational and employment opportunities
  - Punish those who persist with swift and certain sanctions

People, places, and behaviors

- For place-based strategies
  - Increase legitimate police presence in violent hot spots
  - Follow up policing with place-making
  - Supplement policing and place-making with community-building
- For behavior-based strategies
  - Broad efforts to address guns, gangs, and drugs not successful
  - To enhance effectiveness, reframe as behaviors facilitating violence, i.e. gun-carrying, gang-banging, violent drug dealing
  - Focus on these behaviors among key people and in key places

The need for frameworks

- In order to properly organize a multi-pronged response, frameworks can be helpful to coordinate the activities of multiple stakeholders
- “As the global community recognizes the connection between violence and failure to achieve health and development goals, a resource such as an evidence-based framework could more effectively inform policies and funding priorities locally, nationally, and globally” (National Academy of Sciences, 2014)

VRC framework, empty

	Prevention	Intervention	Enforcement
People			
Places			
Behaviors			

VRC framework, full

	Prevention	Intervention	Enforcement
People	*Cognitive behavioral interventions* *Family-based programming*	*Cognitive behavioral interventions* *Focused deterrence*	*Problem-oriented policing* *Shooting investigations* *Focused deterrence*
Places	*Community building* *Economic, commercial investment*	*Blight, nuisance abatement* *Restoring city services*	*Problem-oriented policing* *Hot spots policing*
Behaviors	*Cognitive behavioral interventions* *Family-based programming*	*Cognitive behavioral interventions* *Focused deterrence*	*Problem-oriented policing* *Targeted gun patrols*

VRC framework, full

	Prevention	Intervention	Enforcement
People	*Cognitive behavioral interventions* *Family-based programming*	***Cognitive behavioral interventions*** ***Focused deterrence***	***Problem-oriented policing*** ***Shooting investigations*** ***Focused deterrence***
Places	*Community building* *Economic, commercial investment*	***Blight, nuisance abatement*** ***Restoring city services***	***Problem-oriented policing*** ***Hot spots policing***
Behaviors	*Cognitive behavioral interventions* *Family-based programming*	***Cognitive behavioral interventions*** ***Focused deterrence***	***Problem-oriented policing*** ***Targeted gun patrols***

Let’s discuss!